

**COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (EQAC)**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 8, 2023

TIME: 6:42 p.m. – 8:29 p.m.

**LOCATION: 12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Conference Room 4/5**

EQAC Member Attendance

Name	Present/ Absent*	Name	Present/ Absent*
Larry Zaragoza (Chair, Mount Vernon)	P	Renee Grebe (Vice-Chair, At-Large)	P
Johna Gagnon (Franconia)	P	Stella Koch (At-Large)	P
Richard Healy (Mason)	P	Oaklen Kalinichenko (Student Member)	V
Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	A
Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	V	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	V
<i>Vacant</i> (Providence)		Eric Goplerud (At-Large)	P
Rich Weisman (Sully)	P	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	P

* P indicates present; A indicates absent; V indicates attended virtually

Staff Attendance

John Morrill, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)
Matthew Meyers (OEEC)
Neely Law (OEEC)
Sara Girello (OEEC)
Bill Hicks, Land Development Services

Visitor Attendance

None

Call to Order/Remote Participation

Chair Zaragoza called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. and announced that Mr. Lanfear, Mr. Campbell and Ms. Kalinichenko had requested to participate in the meeting remotely. Chair Zaragoza read the remote participation language requirements and asked Mr. Lanfear to state his name, location, and reason for remote attendance. Mr. Lanfear shared that he was participating remotely from his home in Reston in the Hunter Mill District due to family medical issues. Chair Zaragoza then asked Ms. Kalinichenko to state her name, location, and reason for remote attendance. Ms. Kalinichenko shared that she was participating remotely from her home in Reston in the Hunter Mill District due to personal medical issues. Ms. Gagnon moved to allow the participation of Mr. Lanfear and Ms. Kalinichenko; Dr. Goplerud seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0, with Ms. Kalinichenko and Mr. Lanfear not yet able to vote, Mr. Campbell not yet present at the meeting, and Mr. Lamb being absent from the meeting.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Campbell joined the meeting by Zoom and completed EQAC's remote participation policy (*see #2 below*).

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. EQAC Bylaws Discussion

- a. Mr. Healy presented EQAC with the proposed bylaws and comments that EQAC members made on each section of the bylaws.
- b. He started with Article II – Purpose and noted that the section comes from EQAC’s September 1981 Charter, which was approved by the BOS. Discussion followed on how much EQAC would want to update the section with the agreement to move forward and update it.
 - i. The following changes to Article II - Purpose were proposed and adopted after discussion:
 1. Purpose A. “Determining through study in a continuing basis” was deleted and replaced by “Evaluating”.
 2. Purpose E. “Providing means of communication between public and private sectors on matters of County environmental quality” was altered to read “Providing a means for the public and private sector to communicate their concerns on county environmental quality.”
 3. Purpose F. “...and recognition of superior accomplishment in achieving improved harmony between human activities and the physical environment” was modified to read “...and recognition of accomplishment in improving the environment.”
 4. Purpose G. Addition of the Fairfax County Park Authority to the list of entities noted.
 5. Lines 38-41, which were requested to be added by staff to define limitation to staff’s role, were rejected and struck.
- c. Following Article II, Mr. Healy went over the other articles. The following decisions were made following discussion by EQAC members:
 - i. Article III – Mission to be switched with Article II – Purpose. Mission is now II and Purpose is now III.
 - ii. Article IV – Membership and Term of office was accepted as is.
 - iii. Article V – Officers and Their Duties subsection “Elections” to be rewritten as follows: “After nomination, ~~each~~ the candidate shall be polled on their willingness and ability to serve as the Vice-Chairperson of EQAC. The Vice-Chairperson shall then be elected ~~from among the willing nominees~~ in accordance with the voting provisions of Article VI.”

Discussion stopped at this point to continue at a later date. Mr. Wilber moved to table the charter discussion until a later meeting. Vice-Chair Grebe seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0, with Ms. Kalinichenko and Mr. Lanfear not present for the vote, Mr. Campbell not yet able to vote and Mr. Lamb being absent from the meeting.

2. Data Centers Memo

- a. Chair Zaragoza presented the proposed memo on data centers.

- i. Vice-Chair Grebe asked for clarification as to why EQAC was considering sending the memo since EQAC sent a similar one in June. Chair Zaragoza's response was that there was more information that needed to be transmitted that was not in the previous memo. The new memo mentioned 1) avoidance of resource protection areas (RPAs) in siting; 2) paying attention to water demand; 3) the possible use of green energy from out of state; and 4) a more complicated nuanced look at noise generated by data centers. Chair Zaragoza was informed that the county will be siting data centers so the goal of the memos is to make suggestions to help make data centers compatible for county residents.
 - b. After a fairly long discussion with no resolution on acceptable language, Ms. Koch moved that council vote to accept the intent of the resolution and let Chair Zaragoza and Mr. Lanfear work out precise language and make the document more concise. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion and the vote carried 11-0, with Mr. Campbell not yet able to vote and Mr. Lamb being absent from the meeting.

At the conclusion of the data center conversation Chair Zaragoza read the remote participation language requirements and asked Mr. Campbell to state his name, location, and reason for remote attendance. Mr. Campbell stated that he was at home in the Braddock District because of family medical needs. Ms. Gagnon made a motion to allow his participation in the meeting with Mr. Wilber seconding. The motion carried by a vote of 11-0, with Mr. Campbell not yet able to vote and Mr. Lamb absent from the meeting.

3. Approval of 2024 Meeting Schedule.

Staff presented a draft 2024 meeting schedule. There was discussion on how two of the proposed dates, the one in February and the one in April, did not fall on the second Wednesday of the month. Staff shared that the second Wednesday in February was Valentines Day and in April, the second Wednesday was an observed Fairfax County Public Schools holiday. EQAC took an informal vote on if the February meeting should be held on February 7th, as staff proposed, or on February 14th. A majority of members wanted the meeting to be held on February 7th. The meeting schedule was then accepted as presented.

4. Approval of October 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Chair Zaragoza introduced the draft October meeting minutes and asked if EQAC members had any proposed changes or if there was a motion for approval. Mr. Lanfear moved approval of the October 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Gubin seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 12-0, with Mr. Lamb being absent from the meeting.

5. Creation of Nominating Committee for Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Lamb was tasked with the nominations for EQAC Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024.

6. Chair's Items

Chair Zaragoza noted that two supervisors were retiring from the Board. Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust who had served on EQAC and Penny Gross, from Annandale and representing the Mason District, who served on many regional and county environmental boards

and committees. Chair Zaragoza suggested sending them a note thanking them for their service and would bring draft notes to the December meeting for approval.

7. Council Member Items

- a. Dr. Weisman, Mr. Gubin, Dr. Goplerud, Mr. Wilber, Mr. Lanfear, Mr. Campbell, Ms. Kalinichenko, and Ms. Koch had no items.
- b. Vice-Chair Grebe shared that a HOA landscaping bill had been drafted.
- c. Mr. Healy noted the Tree Commission Charter redraft was finished.
- d. Ms. Gagnon noted that the annual drill for the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee (FJLEPC) would be coming in early December

8. Staff Items

- a. Dr. Law shared that the Board of Supervisors would be holding a public hearing on the Legislative Program on Tuesday November 21.
- b. Mr. Morrill noted that BOS Environmental Committee (BOSEC) would be meeting on December 12. The report from the Lake Accotink Task Force and a report on climate action implementation would be on the agenda.
- c. Dr. Law noted that EQAC would be presenting its Annual Report on the Environment to BOSEC on February 27.

9. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 8:29 p.m. following a motion for adjournment by Dr. Goplerud which was seconded by Mr. Gubin and carried by a vote of 13-0, with Mr. Lamb being absent from the meeting.